

REMARKSAmendments

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-9 and 23 are allowed. (Applicants believe that the allowed claims are 1-9 and 23, and have acted accordingly. Item 5 of the Office Action Summary indicates that the allowed claims are 1-9 and 23. However, other sections of the Office Action are inconsistent. Paragraph 2 of the Office Action indicates that claims 17-23 are rejected. Paragraph 3 indicates that claims 10 and 17-22 are rejected. Paragraph 4 indicates that claims 1-10 and 23 are allowed. Paragraph 5 indicates that previous arguments were persuasive as to claims 1-9 and 23.)

In the claims, independent claims 10, 17 and 20 have been canceled. The corresponding dependent claims (i.e. claims 18-22) have also been canceled. This has been done in the interest of rapid prosecution and without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute similar or different claims in one or more continuation applications.

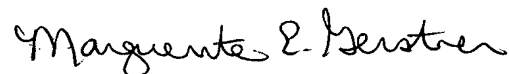
The Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b) and 35 USC § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 10 and 17 to 23 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Chandler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,874,885), and of claims 10 and 17 to 23 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chandler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,874,885). Applicants believe that these rejections have been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Conclusion

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly requested. If, however, there are any outstanding issues which can be usefully discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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